

01848

1995/06/26

To: Don Keyser UNCLASSIFIED

JR

4
R

Laogai Research Foundation Press Release
 FOR MORE INFORMATION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 CALL 202-737-7200 OR
 202-508-8216

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST HARRY WU DETAINED IN CHINA

Monday, June 26: The Laogai Research Foundation today announced that it has been informed by the U.S. State Department that Hongda Harry Wu is being detained by Chinese authorities, who are "investigating the validity of (his) travel documents."

Wu, the Executive Director of the Laogai Research Foundation, whose legal name is Peter H. Wu, is a naturalized American citizen traveling on a United States passport. He was issued a visa by the Chinese government (No. 004131) on March 11, 1995, which is valid for two entries into China, and which expires on September 11, 1995.

Wu and his companion, a woman who is also a U.S. citizen, were detained at the border crossing town of Horgas (Kazakhstan/China border) on Monday, June 19th. They were detained at a guesthouse nearby while the authorities investigated their travel documents. Their movements were restricted and they were under constant guard and not allowed to communicate with the U.S. embassy or anyone else.

Before dawn on Friday, June 23rd, officials of more senior rank arrived at the guesthouse. Shortly thereafter, Wu and his companion were separated and his companion was expelled. At approximately the same time, the Foreign Ministry notified the U.S. Embassy in Beijing of Wu's being detained and the investigation into his travel documents. His current whereabouts are unknown.

The Laogai Research Foundation knows that Wu's documents are completely in order and that he did not violate any Chinese laws or regulations. Furthermore, in his previous visits to China Wu has been extremely careful not to violate any Chinese laws.

Wu, a former political prisoner in China for 19 years, is the author of "Bitter Winds" and "Laogai: The Chinese Gulag". An internationally prominent human rights activist, Wu has testified frequently before U.S. Congressional committees, European Parliament committees, and the United Nations Human Rights Commission, among others and has published numerous articles on the Laogai and human rights in China. He is 58 years old, and lives with his wife in Milpitas, California.

-30 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPICDR

Date: 12/14/95

UNCLASSIFIED

() DELETED FROM

FOIA Exemptions

TO auth

() S or